distribution at reasonable rates through PDS to help handloom weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): Yes, Sir.

Increase in Cotton Yarn Prices

6575. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for unusual increase in the prices of cotton yarn, even after the ICMF has agreed to supply yarn to handloom cooperative through the NHDC at reduced prices than the existing high prices in January, 1994;

(b) whether a telegraphic representation has been made to the Prime Minister that there has been vast difference between the ex-mill rate and the retail rate of cotton yarns and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken to reduce the exploitation by the mills and middlemen dealing with cotton and other yarns; and

(d) the reasons for not adopting the policy of printing the ex-mill rate and retail rate of cotton yarns on the bundles and bales of cotton yarn, just as the rates are printed on medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The commitment of ICMF to supply yarn at reduced rate was only in respect of the quantity supplied by them to handloom agencies and not with regard to overall market price.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Textile Commissioner has been asked to issue appropriate notification amending the provisions of Textiles (Consumer Protection) Regulation, 1988 to incorporate the provision for marking prices on bundles/ packages of yarn.

Purchase of Cotton by Cotton Corporation of India

6576. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantities of cotton purchased by the Cotton Corporation of India in 1993-94 and the places, the names of the individual and institutions from whom the quantities of cotton were purchased and also the prices at which purchased;

(b) the policy laid down by Government for purchase of cotton by the Cotton Corporation of India;

(c) whether this Policy has helped to check the unprecedented increase in prices of cotton and cotton yarn; and

(d) The support prices of cotton at which cotton was actually purchased by the Cotton Corporation of India and the difference between the purchase price and the support price per quintal of kapas or a candy of lint of each variety of cotton?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (d) Information is being collected.

Import of Cotton and Viscose Staple Fibre

6577. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has permitted the textile mill industry to import 5 lakh bales of long and extra long staple cotton free of import duty;

(b) the names of mills, with their headquarters, actually permitted to import the bales of cotton and the quantities, mill-wise;

(c) what is the total amount Government are foregoing by allowing the duty-free imports of cotton;

(d) whether his Ministry has permitted the textile mills to import 30,000 tonnes of V.S.F. (Viscose Staple Fibre) at

reduced rates of import duty;

(e) what is the present rate of import duty and the reduced rate of import of 30,000 tonnes of VSF;

(f) the amount Government are foregoing on the import of 30,000 tonnes of V.S.F.; and

(g) whether there is any condition on the textile mills importing cotton of long and extra long staple cotton of 5 lakh bales and also 30,000 tonnes of VSF to supply the fine and superfine counts of yarn and also the blended cotton yarn with 10 per cent misture of VSF to handlooms; if so, the counts and quantities of the cotton yarns and cotton blended yarns and at what prices and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) Under the present Import-Export Policy, cotton is permitted to be imported under Open General Licence with zero import duty.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The present rate of import duty of Viscose Staple Fibre (VSF) is 25% ad valorem and the reduced rate of duty for above import quota of 30,000 MT. of VSF is 7%.

(f) Loss of foreign exchange duty to import of V.S.F. at concessional rate of duty is estimated at Rs. 25 crore approximately.

(g) There is no condition as regard cotton. In regard to viscose, it is condition that the importing mill should necessarily use the viscose for blending with cotton. The percentage of cotton and viscose in blending has not been prescribed. The objective is to augment fibre availability and thereby reduce the pressure on prices of cotton.

नदिया में सूती धागे के मूल्यों में वृद्धि

6578. **श्री विष्णु कान्त शास्त्री** : क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि जनवरी-मार्च, 1994 के दौरान पश्चिम बंगाल के नदिया जिले में सूती धागे के मूल्य में अस्वाभाविक रूप से वृद्धि हुई और इसके कारण बुनकरों को बहुत कष्ट उठाना पड़ा;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं और इसके मूल्य में वृद्धि पर रोक लगाने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो क्या भविष्य में कोई कदम उठाए जाने का विचार है और यदि हां, तो कब तक?

वस्त्र मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जी० वेंकट स्वामी): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) तथा (ग) सूती यार्न की कीमतों में अपरिष्कृत कपास तथा अन्य आवकों की कीमतों में वृद्धि हुई है। सरकार ने कपास तथा सूती यार्न की कीमतों को नियंत्रित करने के लिए कई कदम उठाए हैं:

(1) कपास की 5 लाख गांठों को निशुल्क आयात की मंजूरी दी गई।

(2) 30,000 मी०टन० विस्कोस स्टेपल फाइबर को रियायती शुल्क पर आयात करने की मंजूरी दी गई।

(3) भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने कपास व्यापार का चुनिन्दा ऋण नियंत्रण लगाया है।

(4) कपास के स्टाक पर अधिकतम सीमा लगाने के लिए कपास नियंत्रण आदेश में संशोधन किया है और वस्त्र आयुक्त ने स्टाक का निरीक्षण करना आरंभ कर दिया है।

(5) प्रैसिंग यूनिटों के भंडारण की जांच करने के लिए तथा मानदंडों का पालन करवाने के लिए वस्त्र आयुक्त ने गहन निरीक्षण के आदेश दिए हैं।

(6) अग्रिम लाइसेंस धारकों को निर्देश दिया गया है कि उनको यार्न का निर्यात करने की अनुमति दिए जाने से पहले ही कपास का आयात कर लें।

(7) वस्त्र आयुक्त ने "हैंक यार्न अनिवार्यता आदेश" लागू करना आरंभ कर दिया है।